

Date

TEXT OF SPEECH OF WELCOME MADE BY MR. B. M. GECAGA,  
CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL OF UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, NAIROBI,  
ON THE OCCASION OF THE VISIT TO THE COLLEGE  
BY HIS EXCELLENCY MARSHALL TITO  
PRESIDENT OF THE SOCIALIST FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF YUGOSLAVIA,  
AND MADAM BROZ

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Your Excellency, Madam Broz, Ladies and Gentlemen:

On behalf of our Visitor, His Excellency Mzee Jomo Kenyatta, the members of my Council, the entire staff and student body of University College, Nairobi, it gives me the greatest pleasure and honour to welcome you here today on this your historic visit to our College.

Your country's exceptional achievements in her struggle for independence and in the building of a modern industrial society, based on equality and freedom, have been a source of inspiration and hope for the people of the whole developing world, and you, Sir, have been the symbol and the leader of your country in these achievements.

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We recall today that you and your country played host to that first historic and important meeting of non-aligned countries, held in Belgrade, your capital city, in 1961. At that time our country was still under the colonial yoke and our own great national leader, President Kenyatta, had only just been released from ten years of imprisonment and detention for his political convictions. During that period it was difficult to see with clarity precisely when and how that colonial cloud would yield to the sunshine of liberty which our forbearers had enjoyed from time immemorial prior to the colonial era, and which liberty we of this generation only knew vicariously through the legends passed down, by word of mouth, to us by our fathers and mothers, who in their earlier days, freely roamed the land of their birth and acknowledged no master but their Creator. Their memory of that era of freedom in their fatherland, though blurred by the colonial cloud, had never been obliterated: the fervour of their determination to regain that freedom continued to burn in their chests, and, like the brave people of Yugoslavia, their faith and belief in the justice of their cause was continually enkindled by the inspiration of their

national heroes and foreign friends. Belgrade and the Belgrade Conference and the achievements of your country and your own contribution have come to be regarded as rallying forces to all who strive for freedom and equal participation of all in the destiny of this, our world.

Thus it is a particular source of pleasure to welcome you, Sir, to this College. For us, you are no stranger; you are part of the developing world; you are part of the non-aligned world; you belong a little bit to us also. Therefore we say "Karibu mwenzetu".

We know also of your interest in young people and the problems of the young. It is, therefore, not surprising that a visit to our University and an address to our students should have been part of your official programme. Yugoslavia has, I am informed, one of the highest numbers of students in relation to population of all countries in the world, including the richest. We also know of the tremendous contribution your young people have made, through voluntary effort, in your country's economic development, especially through the construction of roads, factories, and so on, symbolising that spirit which we in Kenya have given the name Harambee.

Our College, by comparative standards, is a young one. It was opened as a technical college in 1956. In 1961 it was decided to develop it into the second university college in East Africa, in addition to Makerere University College in Uganda. While this decision was being implemented, major developments in higher education were occurring in Tanzania and a third college was opened. In 1963 it was agreed to establish the University of East Africa with the three Colleges - in Uganda, Tanzania and Kenya - as its constituent Colleges. In 1964 our student body was approximately six hundred; today it is over two thousand. By 1974 it will have exceeded three thousand.

Notwithstanding this growth, there are still shortages and inadequacies. Our physical facilities, for example, are not developing at the same rate and are still dependent on a large amount of technical assistance to provide us with enough teaching staff to maintain this high rate of expansion.

We trust that in our several faculties - in Arts, Science, Commerce, Engineering, Medicine, Architecture, Veterinary Science and in our new faculties to be opened in July when we become an independent university, viz: our new faculties of Law, Education and Agriculture - we trust that in all of these and in our Institute of Adult Studies as well as in our Institute for Development Studies, we are providing an education of a high quality and at the same time relevant and suitable for the needs of our country and of the developing world of which we regard ourselves as an integral part.

Your Excellency, our Principal, Dr. Arthur T. Porter, will now also greet you. From him and from each and all of us here, I hope you will feel how very intense our pleasure is in having you among us today. We hope you will also remember your visit here with pleasure and that, through you, we may send to our brothers and sisters in Yugoslavia and especially to the students, staff and governing bodies of your universities, our best wishes and our sincere thanks for making your visit possible.

In the name of all, I welcome you Sir, and Madam Broz, to University College, Nairobi.